

profile and without human intervention. This feature has been implicit in the claims as presented, and its clarification now does not raise new issues. This claim should be further examined now.

Claims 4 and 8 have been amended to incorporate the characteristic of claim 1. This is that the system includes means for storing profiles of students which contain information about the student's learning characteristics. Also there are means for tailoring presentation of lessons from the educational program in accordance with the student's profile. This characteristic does exist in claim 1. Thus, the three independent claims required the characteristic of storing profiles of students. Dependent claims 13, 14 and 15 add the feature of a video conference link.

As previously indicated, the Examiner should note that the invention of claim 1 is directed to a **plurality** of computers, **plurality** of roving communicators, and a **plurality** of lessons. In claims 4 and 8 there are **multiple educational programs**, and there is the means for the **student to select** an educational program. In claim 8 there is also the ability for a student to view a list of all stored programs and thereby make a selection. In claims 1, 4 and 8 there is a characteristic that the educational material or lessons are stored on multiple computers. As defined in claim 4, for instance, there are **multiple** computers which store **the educational programs**. These features are different to the characteristics set out in Lee.

The Examiner referred to Figure 1 and items 10, 40, 42 and 44 for indicating the multiple computers in Lee. A straightforward understanding of Lee indicates that item 40 is the teacher's workstation, item 42 is the LAN interface, and item 44 is a local area network (LAN). This is hardly a situation where a plurality of multiple computers having a plurality of educational programs. Likewise, Lee refers to an information storage device retrieving audio and visual data created for each lesson segment (Lee, page 9, lines 3-15). This is hardly to be considered as having different educational programs on different computers in the manner as set out in the present claims.

An important feature of the invention of claims 1, 4 and 8 is the ability to relate the learning system to the learning profile of the student. The learning profile consists of characteristics where the learning style of the learner can be identified, preferences for

learning can be identified, and further the appropriate delivery means determined. There is also the ability to match a development plan for the learner according to the characteristics of the learning profile. It is possible to also identify gaps between a specific competency of learning and learning skills. The invented system is based on this characteristic.

The student profile characteristic is not disclosed in the prior art of Lee. As claimed, the invention can operate without a teacher assist, namely without human intervention. This is totally different to the teaching of Lee. As indicated in Lee,

“all of the student workstations are in constant communication with the teacher’s workstation 40---as described in more detail below, this real-time communication between student workstation and teacher workstation allows the teacher to be informed of the student’s progress and activities, as well as allowing this teacher to tailor instructional programs for each student.” (Lee, page 6, lines 16-23)

This is a fundamental feature of Lee. Where Lee does relate to a teacher or a system program being used to determine homework or material for each student, this is also not to be considered a disclosure of a student’s learning profile. As indicated, the student’s learning profile of the present invention is a specific characteristic. It permits the learning system of the present invention to operate automatically and intelligently to effect learning.

Contrarily, Lee involves teacher intervention on a continuous basis. This does not reach the level of “machine-type intelligent teaching and learning”. It is only in exceptional circumstances with the present invention that a teacher interface is called for. Contrarily, Lee is fundamentally different; it calls for continuous teacher intervention.

In regard to claim 3, the Examiner had referred to Lee on page 7 to support the position that Lee teaches different groups of lessons with different presentations. There is nothing in the portion of Lee referred to by the Examiner (page 7, lines 17-28) which indicates that different segments could have different presentations. In particular, as itemized by the Examiner in the Office Action, there is nothing to indicate that the lesson segments could be similar in information content and be different in presentation. The Examiner should carefully consider the actual requirements of each claim. Careful consideration of the requirements of each claim will show that Lee does not teach this technique.

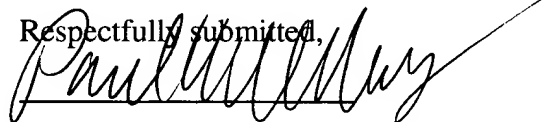
Consideration is now had to claims 13, 14 and 15, and the art cited against these claims. Bales relates simply to video conferencing. It is inappropriate to consider the combination of Bales with a teaching system of Lee and to thereby hold the present invention obvious. There is nothing to suggest that combination other than the present invention of the applicant. It is inappropriate for the Examiner to consider the present invention as a roadmap by which the Examiner can combine unrelated references.

In the result, it is submitted that it is clear that dependent claims 13, 14 and 15 relating to the video conferencing characteristic of the invention, in addition to the student profiles and in addition to the multiple computers having educational programs, are clearly patentably distinguishable over the Examiner's combination of references.

Please abandon the prior application at a time while the prior application is pending or when the petition for extension of time or to revive in that application is granted and when this application is granted a filing date so as to make this application copending with said prior application. A request for a three month extension of time has been included with this response. It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in fees be charged or any overpayment in fees credited to Deposit Account No. 14-0225.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in good order for allowance, and such early action is respectfully solicited. Should matters remain which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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